

MICHIGAN FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROCESSOR'S GUIDE TO ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS

INTRODUCTION

The *Michigan Fruit and Vegetable Processor's Guide to Environmental Regulations* is a publication of the Michigan Departments of Environmental Quality, developed in partnership with the Michigan Food Processor's Association and the Michigan Department of Agriculture. Food processing facilities, suppliers, consultants, and regulators will all benefit from this guide, which simplifies the maze of environmental obligations facing Michigan's fruit and vegetable processing industry. The guidebook is a ready-reference tool for anyone striving toward compliance with state and federal regulations that affect food processing. Although some reference is made to local regulations, they are not discussed in any detail. Be sure to contact your local government officials for information on applicable local requirements.



Like other industrial activities, this sector uses a variety of materials and potentially hazardous chemicals and generates wastewater with properties that can be difficult to treat. Although the average facility is not a major source of pollution, the industry's aggregate impact on the environment can be considered substantial. Improper handling of materials and waste products often contributes to environmental contamination, leading to costly and harmful effects.

This guidebook describes how wastes may enter the environment, how to prevent them from doing so, and identifies remediation methods to use if contamination does occur. Some of the most common concerns, along with applicable solutions, are described in the chapters that follow. Topics include discharge of air pollutants; disposal of solid, liquid, and hazardous waste; material storage requirements; discharges of wastewater to municipal sewage systems, storm drains, and to the environment (land or surface waters) along with information to help assess wastewater treatment systems; and requirements for prevention and reporting of accidental releases on the land or into lakes and streams.

The promotion of a healthy environment is in the best interest of all parties. By using the knowledge set forth in this guidebook to develop and sustain effective environmental programs, processors can steer clear of compliance problems, avoid costly penalties, and save money in the long run.

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Michigan Fruit and Vegetable Processing Guide to Environmental Regulations is intended for guidance only and may be impacted by changes in legislation, rules, and regulations adopted after the date of publication. The suggestions given for identifying and implementing pollution prevention opportunities are not to be used as a substitute for applicable codes, rules, and regulations that impact the sector. Although the guidebook makes every effort to teach users how to meet applicable compliance obligations, use of this guidebook does not constitute the rendering of legal advice.

Diligent attention was given to assure that the information presented herein is accurate as of the date of publication; however, there is no guarantee, expressed or implied, that use of this guidebook will satisfy all regulatory requirements mandated by laws and their respective enforcement agencies. Reliance on information from this document is not usable as a defense in any enforcement action or litigation. The state of Michigan shall be held harmless for any cause of action brought on as a result of using of this publication.